

Maryland Agriculture Data

Media Summary

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2004 Yields near Record Highs

Maryland:

Timely rains and moderate temperatures throughout the 2004 growing season provided excellent growing conditions for Maryland farmers. Yields for the major commodities were near or reached record highs as producers enjoyed one of the most bountiful seasons in several years.

Corn for Grain production totaled 65,025,000 bushels, up 29 percent from 2003's production of 50,430,000 bushels, and more than double 2002 production. Yield averaged 153 bushels per acre, up 30 bushels from last year and just two bushels per acre less than the record yield of 2000. Corn for grain was harvested on 425,000 acres. **Corn for silage** production was 1.2 million tons, up 15 percent from 2003. Corn for silage was harvested from 60,000 acres, down from 65,000 acres in 2003. Yield averaged 20 tons per acre, 4 tons per acre more than 2003 and 8 tons per acre more than 2002.

Soybean production totaled 21,285,000 bushels, 34 percent above the 15,910,000 bushels produced in 2003 and 97 percent above the 2002 crop. Harvested acreage showed a significant increase from last year to 495,000 acres and yields averaged 43.0 bushels per acre, equal to the record yield set in 2000.

Hay production was up 6 percent from 2003 to 570,000 tons in 2004. This includes 132,000 tons of alfalfa hay and 438,000 tons of other hay. The average yield on the 45,000 acres harvested of alfalfa was 3.3 tons per acre, comparable to 2003. There were 175,000 acres harvested of all other hay which yielded an average of 2.5 tons per acre.

Tobacco production was 1.87 million pounds, up 17 percent from 2003. Yields averaged a record 1,700 pounds per acre. Harvested acreage totaled 1,100 acres

Winter Wheat planted acres for harvest in 2005 is forecast at 150,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2004.

United States:

Corn for grain production is estimated at 11.8 billion bushels, up less than 1 percent from the November forecast and up 17 percent from the 10.1 billion bushels produced in 2003. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 160.4 bushels per acre, 0.2 bushels above the November forecast and up 18.2 bushels from 2003. Both production and yield estimates are the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre.

Soybean production in 2004 totaled 3.14 billion bushels, the largest U.S. soybean crop in history. This is down slightly from the November forecast but 28 percent above the 2003 level. The average yield per acre is estimated at a record high 42.5 bushels, 0.1 bushel below the November forecast, but 8.6 bushels above the 2003 final yield.

Winter wheat seeded area for 2005 is expected to total 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004.

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ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2003 AND 2004

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	480	490	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	410	425	123	153	50,430	65,025
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	65	60	16	20	1,040	1,200
Soybeans	BU	435	500	430	495	37	43	15,910	21,285
Sorghum ¹	BU	6	5	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	3	4	65	84	195	336
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	3	1	10	8	30	8
Winter Wheat	BU	165	160	145	145	37	59	5,365	8,555
Barley	BU	43	42	36	39	57	73	2,052	2,847
All Hay	TON	----	----	195	215	2.8	2.7	539	570
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	45	40	3.3	3.3	149	132
Other Hay	TON	----	----	150	175	2.6	2.5	390	438
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	1.1	1.1	1,450	1,700	1,595	1,870
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	40,000	34,000
Peaches	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	8,500	8,800
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	240	260	1,104	1,196
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	78,603	80,930	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	70,944	73,632	142	160	10,089	11,807
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,583	6,103	16	18	107	107
Soybeans	BU	73,404	75,208	72,476	73,958	34	43	2,454	3,141
Sorghum ¹	BU	9,420	7,486	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	7,798	6,517	52.7	69.8	411	455
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	343	352	10.4	13.5	4	5
Wheat, Winter	BU	45,384	43,350	36,753	34,462	47	44	1,717	1,499
Barley	BU	5,348	4,527	4,727	4,021	59	69	278	279
All Hay	TON	----	----	63,383	61,916	2.49	2.55	158	158
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,529	21,707	3.24	3.47	76	75
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,854	40,209	2.04	2.05	81	82
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	411.2	409.1	1,952	2,159	803	883
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	8,613	9,459
Peaches	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	2,519	2,598
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	63.4	59.1	58.7	54.6	320	345	19	19

¹Acres planted is for all purposes.